

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method ~~of interfacing between a client and a mainframe system~~, comprising:
 - receiving, at a computer device, requests for services from ~~said a~~ client;
 - parsing, via the computer device, said requests to obtain parsed requests;
 - obtaining, via the computer device, service definitions based on said parsed requests;
 - executing, via the computer device, commands based on said service definitions, said commands corresponding with applications recognized by ~~said a~~ mainframe system, said commands ~~[[for]]~~ providing results to said requests for the services; and
 - providing, via the computer device, said results to said client.
2. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~ where receiving said requests for the services comprises:
 - receiving a connection request from said client; and
 - instantiating a session manager to receive said requests for the services.

3. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 2, comprising pre-establishing a plurality of session managers, ~~wherein~~ where instantiating comprises instantiating one of said plurality of session managers.

4. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, comprising:
retrieving entitlement information related to said client; ~~and,~~
where obtaining said service definitions is in response to a determination
that when said entitlement information indicates that the computer device is permitted to
process said parsed requests ~~can be processed~~ for said client.

5. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 4, comprising:
returning an error message to said client when said entitlement
information indicates that the computer device is not permitted to process said parsed
requests ~~cannot be processed~~ for said client.

6. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~ where:
obtaining service definitions comprises determining [[if]] that said
requests for the services are requests for single commands; and
when said requests for the services are the requests for the single
commands, executing the commands for providing the results comprises executing said
single commands at an interface ~~interfacing to~~ interface said client with said mainframe
system ~~when said requests for services are requests for single commands.~~

7. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, comprising:

creating a plurality of connections with said mainframe system to form a connection pool;

removing one of said plurality of connections from said connection pool;

and

assigning the one of said plurality of connections ~~from said connection pool for interacting to interact~~ with said mainframe system when one of said requests for services ~~a service request~~ is received.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 7, comprising:

returning said one of said connections to said connection pool when said client chooses to end a session with said mainframe system.

9. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 7, ~~wherein~~ where:

creating said plurality of connections comprises performing commands corresponding to startup sections of said service definitions; and

executing commands comprises performing commands corresponding to execution sections of said service definitions.

10. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 9, ~~wherein~~ where

executing commands comprises performing commands corresponding to a close-up section of one of said service definitions to release said plurality of connections when said requests for services include a logout request.

11. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, comprising:
specifying identifiers for screens of said mainframe system; and
specifying actions to be taken with respect to said screens to generate said
service definitions, said actions including one of:

receiving said requests for services, and
providing said results.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 1, comprising:
opening a socket connection to an interface to facilitate interfacing with
said mainframe system; and

managing said interface over said socket connection.

13. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 12, ~~wherein~~ where
managing comprises at least one of:

controlling access of said clients to said interface,
generating said service definitions, and
modifying said service definitions.

14. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 12, ~~wherein~~ where
managing comprises:

logging activities of said interface to obtain logs; and
debugging executing commands based on said logs.

15-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently amended) An interface device ~~for interfacing a client with a mainframe system~~, comprising:

- a session manager to receive ~~receiving~~ requests for services from a client;
- a message processor to parse said requests to obtain parsed requests;
- a service processor to obtain service definitions based on said parsed requests; and
- a host connector to interact ~~interacting with said a~~ mainframe system and to execute ~~executing~~ commands based on said service definitions, said commands corresponding with applications recognized by said mainframe system for providing results to said requests for services.

19. (Currently amended) An interface device according to claim 18, comprising:

- a database ~~for storing~~ to store a plurality of service definitions; and
- a storage manager ~~communicating to:~~
communicate with said service processor, and
retrieve, ~~retrieving~~ from said database, said service definitions based on said parsed requests.

20. (Currently amended) An interface device according to claim 18,
comprising:
an interface engine to listen for a connection request and instantiate said session manager to receive said requests for services related to said connection request.

21. (Currently amended) An interface device according to claim 20,
comprising:
a connection pool of pre-established connections between said host connector and said mainframe system,
~~where said interface engine assigning is further to assign~~ one of said pre-established connections from said connection pool in response to said connection request.

22. (Currently amended) An interface device according to claim 20,
comprising:
a thread pool of pre-established session managers, said interface engine ~~instantiating to instantiate~~ said session manager from one of said pre-established session managers from said thread pool.

23. (Currently amended) An interface device according to claim 20,
comprising:
a cache memory; and
a service cache to store, in said cache memory, said service definitions for said requests for services related to said connection.

24. (Currently amended) An interface device according to claim 18, comprising an administrative tool to facilitate ~~for facilitating~~ at least one of:
creating new service definitions, and
modifying existing service definitions.

25. (Currently amended) An interface device according to claim 24, ~~wherein~~
where said administrative tool comprises a socket connection to communicate
~~communicating~~ administrative requests to said interface device.

26. (Currently amended) An interface device according to claim 18, comprising a command processor to execute administrative commands based on said requests for services when said requests for services are requests for a single command.

27. (Currently amended) An interface device according to claim 18, comprising:
an authenticator containing access privilege information for said client, said access privilege information for determining to determine ~~if a client inputting said requests for services is authorized to have~~ said service processor is authorized to obtain said service definitions based on said parsed requests for said client.

28. (Currently amended) An interface device according to claim 18, comprising a logging service to log activities of said interface device.

29. (New) A computer-readable storage medium encoded with instructions executable by a network device, the instructions to cause a processor in the network device to implement a method comprising:

receiving requests for services from a client, where receiving said requests for the services comprises:

receiving a connection request from said client, and

instantiating a session manager to receive said requests for the services;

parsing said requests to obtain parsed requests;

obtaining service definitions based on said parsed requests;

executing commands based on said service definitions, said commands corresponding with applications recognized by a mainframe system, said commands providing results to said requests for the services; and

providing said results to said client.

30. (New) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 29, where the method further comprises:

creating a plurality of connections with said mainframe system to form a connection pool;

removing one of said plurality of connections from said connection pool;

and

assigning the one of said plurality of connections to interact with said mainframe system when one of said requests for services is received.

31. (New) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 30, where:
creating said plurality of connections comprises performing commands corresponding to startup sections of said service definitions; and
executing commands comprises performing commands corresponding to execution sections of said service definitions.

32. (New) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 31, where
executing commands includes:
performing commands corresponding to a close-up section of one of said service definitions to release said plurality of connections when said requests for services include a logout request.